



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Audio comments from U.S. Attorney Todd P. Graves will be available in MP3 format to download from the district's Web site after 4 p.m. today at*

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## **TWO SPRINGFIELD MEN INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two Springfield, Mo., men have been indicted by a federal grand jury for their role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

**David F. Williams**, 30, and **Sean L. Simaytis**, 36, both of Springfield, were charged in a 16-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Springfield on Jan. 26, 2004. That indictment was unsealed and made public today upon the arrest and initial court appearance of **Simaytis**.

**Williams** remains in federal custody after being charged in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield on Jan. 8, 2004. Today's indictment replaces that complaint.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Williams** was arrested on Jan. 7, 2004, when law enforcement officers discovered a large-scale methamphetamine manufacturing laboratory in his home at 1221 S. Crutcher in Springfield. Agents located a quantity of methamphetamine in the house, as well as 39 boxes containing pseudoephedrine tablets, 25 plastic zip-lock bags containing pills believed to be pseudoephedrine and five bags of powder that appeared to be crushed pseudoephedrine. Agents also found several firearms and items used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, such as anhydrous ammonia tanks.

"This was one of the largest meth labs ever found in southwest Missouri," Graves said. "The entire house, upstairs and downstairs, was essentially being utilized as a lab. This is not

only significant because of the large size of the meth lab, but because it was located within a residential area. Methamphetamine is a growing problem in southern Missouri, but most meth labs are hidden in sparsely populated areas because of the strong chemical odor they produce.

“In this case, which actually involves three meth labs at different locations, officers were able to smell the ether and other chemicals before they even entered the residences.” Graves added that two law enforcement officers required medical treatment after being exposed to chemicals when they entered the residence and discovered a meth lab at 5503 N. State Highway in Springfield.

Graves urged landlords and neighbors to be aware of the signs of an operational methamphetamine laboratory, especially the pungent chemical smell, and report their suspicions to law enforcement authorities.

“A meth lab in a neighborhood creates serious health and safety hazards for children and all the nearby residents,” Graves said. “It also leaves behind toxic chemical waste that can be expensive to clean up, or even require a property to be condemned and demolished.”

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams** and **Simaytis** participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute in excess of 500 grams of methamphetamine from November 2003 to Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County, Mo.

In addition to the conspiracy count, **Williams** is charged with six additional counts and **Simaytis** is charged with nine additional counts in the indictment.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Dec. 16, 2003, in Greene County.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** manufactured methamphetamine on Dec. 16, 2003, in Greene County.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** was in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on Dec. 16, 2003, in Greene County.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** opened and maintained a residence located at 5503 N. State Highway in Springfield, for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine, on Dec. 16, 2003.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis**, while manufacturing methamphetamine at 5503 N. State Highway, knowingly and intentionally unlawfully created a substantial risk of harm to human life.

Count Seven of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Simaytis** to forfeit to the United States \$14,166 seized from him on Dec. 16, 2003.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Nine of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** possessed pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Ten of the federal indictment alleges that **Simaytis** attempted to manufacture methamphetamine on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Eleven of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams** attempted to manufacture methamphetamine on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Twelve of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams** was in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Thirteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams** was in possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County.

Count Fourteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams** opened and maintained a residence located at 1221 S. Crutcher in Springfield, for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine on Jan. 7, 2004.

Count Fifteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams**, while manufacturing methamphetamine in the residence located at 1221 S. Crutcher, knowingly and intentionally unlawfully created a substantial risk of harm to human life on Jan. 7, 2004.

Count Sixteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Williams** was in possession of eight firearms – including a Tanfoglio Giuseppe .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and ammunition, a Beretta .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun, a Harrington and Richardson .22 caliber revolver, a Lorcin .380 caliber semi-automatic handgun and ammunition, a Smith and Wesson .357 magnum revolver and ammunition, a Century Arms International .308 caliber rifle and ammunition, a Remington 12 gauge shotgun, and a Savage Arms 12 gauge shotgun – on Jan. 7, 2004, in Greene County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Williams** has two 1991 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Greene County and two 1993 criminal felony convictions for burglary in Greene County and Lawrence County, Mo.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

and Explosives, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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